Queensborough Community College
The City University of New York
English 224D5 (45492): Special Topics in Reading and Writing
Exploring Graphic Genres
Friday, 10:10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., H436

Dr. Susan Jacobowitz
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Office location: English Department, H428, Cubicle 425
Office hours: Wednesdays, 10:00-12:00, Thursdays 2:00-3:00 and by appointment (really!).

Course Description: This course seeks to explore graphic genres – graphic journalism, memoir, fiction, history, film – to investigate the history, power and popularity of texts that combine words and pictures. Topics and themes explored in the works we will review include war, family, sexuality, adolescence, ethnicity, identity, politics and science fiction. Students participate in creating graphic work to experience the process of creating something visual while also researching and presenting on an artist or genre and a specific graphic work.

Course Requirements: Read, write, attend and participate.

Texts:
Alison Bechdel, Fun Home
Marisa Acocella Marchetto, Cancer Vixen
Rutu Modan, Exit Wounds
Alan Moore, Watchmen
Joe Sacco, Safe Area Gorazde
Art Spiegelman, Maus I & II
Alissa Torres & Sungyoon Choi, American Widow
Gene Luen Yang, American Born Chinese

Films/television (subject to change):
“American Splendor”
“Crumb”
“The Illusionist”
“Persepolis”
“The Wolf Children”

“Spirited Away”
“Waltz with Bashir”
“Watchmen”

Grading:
Response Papers 20% 3-paragraph response to each text + 2 questions
Graphic Piece 20% exploring genocide/related theme OR American Splendor-inspired, slice of life
Graphic Project 20% research a graphic artist, writer or graphic genre
Presentation 20% presentation of 10-15 minutes, can utilize PP, Prezi, film clips, interviews, etc.

The graphic pieces on the genocide topic can be submitted for consideration for a student-led exhibition at the KHRCA in the spring, premiering on Thursday, April 16, 5:00-7:00 pm.

Website for the NEH grant: http://qcc.libguides.com/nehchallenge
**Extra Credit** (attendance at 3 campus events = ½ grade)

**NEH Challenge Grant: Testimony Across Disciplines: Students Respond to Genocide through Culture and Art, 2014-2015 KHRCA Colloquia Schedule**

Wednesday, Sept. 17, 12:10-2:00 pm, “Culture as Survival: Music and Theater in the Nazi Concentration Camps and Ghettos,” Dr. Barbara Milewski, Swarthmore College, Dr. Lisa Peschel, University of York, England.

Tuesday, Sept. 23, 10:10 – 12:00 pm, “Graphic Depictions of Genocide: Art Spiegelman, Joe Sacco and J.P. Stassen Take on Auschwitz, Bosnia and Rwanda,” Dr. Susan Jacobowitz, Department of English, Queensborough.

Wednesday, Oct. 8, 12:10-2:00 pm, “Responding to Genocide: Creative Writing in Conversation with Art,” Prof. Jodie Childers, Department of English, Queensborough.

Wednesday, Oct. 22, 12:10-2:00 pm, “Dance Disability and the Holocaust,” Ms. Heidi Latsky, Founder, Heidi Latsky Dance, Introductory works by Dr. Amy Traver, Department of Social Sciences, Queensborough.

Wednesday, Nov. 5, 12:10-2:00 pm, “Poetry of Conflict: The African-American Experience,” Dr. Joel Kuszai, Department of English, Queensborough.

**Attendance Policy:** as required by CUNY.

**Academic Integrity:** as per CUNY policy. If you plagiarize, you can fail the assignment or the class, at the discretion of the instructor.

**Disability Policy:** Any student who feels that he/she may need an accommodation based upon the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss his/her specific needs. Please contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities in Science Building, Room 132 (718-631-6257) to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

**The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation Student Emergency Grant Fund.** This fund provides one-time emergency grants to students in good standing with short-term financial emergencies to enable them to remain in school. Students may access the grant funds once during their enrollment at Queensborough for emergencies such as loss of a job, fire/flood, theft, medical bills, eyeglasses or essential dental work, homelessness, travel home for illness or death in the immediate family, loss of childcare, winter coat or interview suit, food card to eat in cafeteria, transportation card to get to and from school and/or medical appointments. Direct all inquiries to Denise Scalzo, Director of Student Financial Services, at dscalzo@qcc.cuny.edu.

**Electronic devise usage:** don’t get me started. Please watch https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nfUD0WhE264
Syllabus

Friday, Aug. 29  Introduction, graphic genres presentation

Friday, Sept. 5  Maus I, Art Spiegelman

Friday, Sept. 12 Maus II, Art Spiegelman

Friday, Sept. 19 Safe Area Gorazde, Joe Sacco
Film: “Waltz with Bashir,” Ari Folman

Tuesday, Sept. 23 classes follow a Friday schedule – meet at KHRCA
Workshop: graphic depictions of genocide

Friday, Sept. 26 no classes scheduled

Friday, Oct. 3 no classes scheduled

Friday, Oct. 10 Watchmen, Alan Moore
Film: “Watchmen,” Director’s Cut

Friday, Oct. 17 Fun Home, Alison Bechdel
Film: “American Splendor,” about Harvey Pekar

Friday, Oct. 24 Library Session with Dr. Jean Amaral, Room 302
Graphic workshop (samples)

Friday, Oct. 31 American Widow, Alissa Torres and Sungyoon Choi
Film: “Persepolis,” Marjane Satrapi

Friday, Nov. 7 Exit Wounds, Rutu Modan
Film: “Crumb,” about Robert Crumb

Friday, Nov. 14 American Born Chinese, Gene Luen Yang
Film: “Spirited Away,” Hayao Miyazaki

Friday, Nov. 21 Cancer Vixen, Marisa Acocello Marchetto
Film: “The Wolf Children,” Mamoru Hosoda

Friday, Nov. 28 no classes scheduled

Friday, Dec. 5 Blue is the Warmest Color, Julie Maroh
Film: “The Illusionist”
Friday, Dec. 12  Presentations

Dec. 17-23  Final Exams (Presentations)